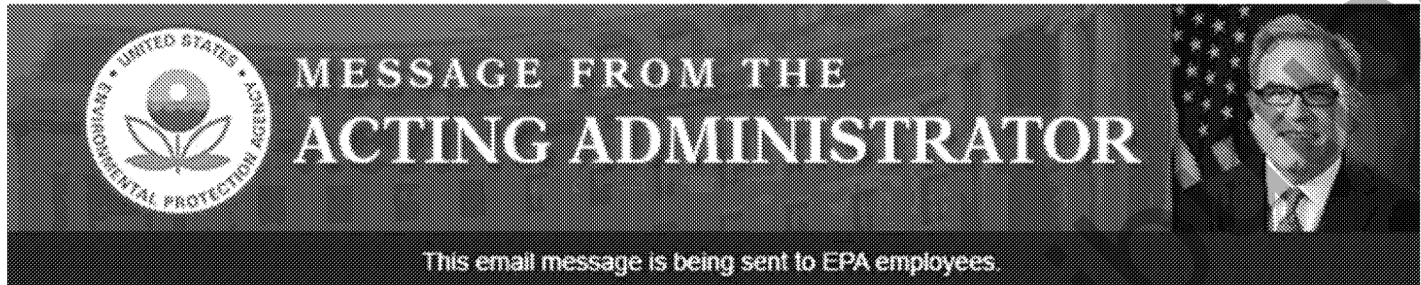


**From:** Message from the Administrator [messagefromtheadadministrator@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/4/2019 8:30:53 PM  
**To:** Message from the Administrator [messagefromtheadadministrator@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Special thanks to those who assisted with the 2017 major disasters  
**Attachments:** US EPA 2017 Hurricane Emergency Response Challenge Coin Winners.pdf



Dear Colleagues,

In 2017 EPA responded to four major disasters-Hurricanes Harvey (Region 6), Irma (Regions 2 & 4), Maria (Regions 2 & 4), and the California wildfires (Region 9). The skills and training demonstrated by the Agency's workforce were invaluable and contributed to the mitigation of negative environmental impacts and saved many lives. I want to give a special thanks to the staff who deployed to the areas impacted by the disasters, the headquarters offices and all ten regions for helping to coordinate the response activities for the Agency, and to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at headquarters for its support.

Some notable achievements related to the responses include the following:

- Nearly 250 initial assessments completed for Superfund sites
- Nearly 325 spills/discharges assessed
- More than 7,260 disaster debris management sites assessed
- Approximately 6,349 drinking water systems assessed
- Approximately 1,226 wastewater systems assessed
- Over 440 cubic yards of contaminated soil prepared for removal
- Nearly half a million containers (drums, oil containers, propane tanks) recovered

As a token of appreciation for the hard work related to these responses, I'd like to recognize the 1,632 recipients of the 2017 National Response Season Award with a special Challenge Coin. Please see the attached document for a list of the recipients.

Please join me  
our colleagues  
challenging

Andrew  
Acting

in thanking and congratulating  
who contributed to these  
response efforts.

Wheeler  
Administrator

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